

Appln. No.: 09/901,103
Amendment dated December 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action mailed September 30, 2005, has been carefully reviewed, and these remarks are responsive to that office action. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Swift et al., (U.S. 6,912,575) in view of Khalil (U.S. 5,343,465).

Claims 16, 17, 30, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Swift in view of Khalil and further in view of Dziong et al. (U.S. 6,697,369).

Claims 11-15 and 25-29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 11-15 and 25-29 remain in this application. Claims 1-10, 16-24, and 30-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 11 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 25 are in condition for allowance. Claims 12-15 and 26-29 properly depend upon claims 11 and 25, respectively, and are, therefore, also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a notice of allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: December 30, 2005

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Page 7 of 7